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## **PERCEPTION & AWARENESS ON IMMUNIZATION AMONG URBAN MOTHERS IN THE GAMPAHA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Vaccination is an injection of a killed microbe in order to stimulate the immune system against the microbe, thereby preventing disease. Vaccinations, or immunizations, work by stimulating the immune system, the natural disease-fighting system of the body. The study objectives are to correlate the education level of the mothers with regard to their immunization, to find the proportion of immunization in infants in relation to the knowledge of the mother and to assess the knowledge of the community about the weaning of infants and its requirement. Descriptive study was done on 106 urban mothers in Gampaha district using convenience sampling through a self-administered questionnaire. Among 106 eligible participants 73 had their children vaccinated up to date and 46 of them observed fever, 12 of them observed pain and swelling as a main side effect. 23% was aged 30 to 40 with mostly having the education up to advanced level, among the study sample 56.6% have two children in the family. Among 106 eligible participants 82 participants said that vaccination is important, when asked of importance of vaccination 77.4% of the population had a positive response while only 20.8% had a negative response. The participants included the reasons for immunization, from that 39.6% were aware and 94.4% unaware. Three percent had a positive response, 17.9% negative response and 49.1% was not unaware when assessed of the intensity of harm due to vaccination. Missed vaccination is a common problem worldwide. In our pre-sent study, we observe that despite good knowledge and attitude towards EPI. According to the results it is found that the awareness of mothers is adequate regarding the importance of immunization.

**Keywords:** vaccination, urban mothers, awareness, perception, Gampaha district, Sri Lanka, immunity